

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-9

NEW YORK TIMES  
20 April 1984

# STAT Reagan Urged to Go to American People on Nicaragua Issue

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 19 — Administration officials said today that some White House officials have urged President Reagan to make a speech to the American people to overcome Congressional resistance to \$21 million in additional aid for the Nicaraguan rebels.

"I think the only way we are going to get the money," an official said, "is by the President going over the heads of Congress, to the people, to lay out the situation and persuade them that there is an important middle ground between total war and total peace."

Other officials hope a compromise can be worked out. A State Department official said that, once Congress returns from its Easter recess next Tuesday, there will be an opportunity for discussion to see what can be done.

The officials said no decision was likely until Mr. Reagan returns from China in 11 days. But they noted that available money for the rebels was almost exhausted and that the aid program would be imperiled if Congress did not approve the \$21 million soon.

## Senate Voted Money April 5

The Senate approved the request April 5, but House Democratic leaders have vowed not to vote any money. Since April 5, key members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have complained that William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, did not inform them adequately about American involvement in the mining of Nicaraguan harbors and in a raid against Nicaraguan oil storage tanks.

Vice President Bush, referring to the Nicaraguan rebels as Contras, told the Overseas Writers club today:

"I think it would be very, very bad if the Contras receive no funding from the United States. If you deny the Contras any support at all, you facilitate the overthrow of a neighboring regime which is going the democratic route, which has not perfected democracy, but is head and shoulders above the Sandinistas."

He was alluding to the Reagan Administration's argument that aid to the Nicaraguan insurgents was justified on the ground that the Nicaraguan Government was aiding the rebel forces in El Salvador.

## Two Legislative Approaches

There are two legislative possibilities when Congress returns, Congressional staff aides said.

One is for a House-Senate conference to settle differences between a \$1.4 billion Senate appropriations bill that contains \$21 million for Nicaraguan rebels, and a House bill that contains only \$150 million in African famine relief.

The other is for the House to take up a substitute appropriations bill offered by Representative Jamie L. Whitten, Democrat of Mississippi, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, which contains \$500 million in aid, none of its for the Nicaraguan rebels.

Neither approach would provide money for the insurgents.

Last fall, when the Congress first approved \$24 million for the Nicaraguan rebels, the House at first did not support the aid. But House conferees agreed to it in conference with the Senate. For this to happen again, the Senate conferees would have to fight strongly for the request.

## Two Hearings Are Scheduled

The Administration hopes to end the feud with the Senate Intelligence Committee next week. Two hearings are scheduled. The first, on Monday, will be involve staff members of the committee and of the Central Intelligence Agency, through which the money for the Nicaraguan rebels is being funneled. The other hearing, on Thursday, will involve senators and senior C.I.A. officials.

Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, who is a committee member, said in an interview that there were so many senators who "justifiably feel they were not briefed adequately" that there is a credibility problem between the Congress and the intelligence agencies.

"We should charge admission to the hearing next week," he said, "because there will be so much storming with people pointing fingers at each other, accusing them of this and that."

Senator Leahy, who opposed aid for the Nicaraguan rebels, has said that he was sufficiently briefed on the nature of American involvement in the activities against Nicaragua.

## Committee Recommendations

Committee staff aides have drawn up some recommendations. Some of these reflect the complaints by Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, the committee chairman, and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan,

Democrat of New York, the vice chairman, that Mr. Casey did not properly inform the committee about the scope of the American involvement.

Under the recommendations, the committee aides said, the C.I.A. would be required to certify each week that it has not undertaken any new significant operations without fully informing the committee. Mr. Casey would be required to testify only under oath, and the C.I.A. legislative liaison officer, Clair George, would be replaced.

Mr. Casey has insisted that he has complied fully with the law in his briefings. In a bulletin distributed to C.I.A. employees last week, he said reports that Congress had not been properly informed were "not true."

"We have fully met all statutory requirements on notifying our intelligence oversight committees on the covert action program in Nicaragua," he wrote. "This agency has not only complied with the letter of the law in our briefings, but with the spirit of the law as well."